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SOURCE Hsin-ven Pao.CENTRAL CHINA FACTORIES CURTAIL PRODUCTION

The current situation in central China has compelled the limekiln and mining companies in that region to reduce production. Daily output of the Iuan-hua Coal Mine is between 240 and 300 tons while that of the Li-hua Coal Mine is only 200 tons. Neither equals one third of the prewar production figures.

Lack of finances and raw materials have caused a work stoppage at the Hua-chung Ironworks and the Hua-hsin Cement Factory. Modernized equipment at the latter makes a daily production of 1,000 tons possible. The Southern Hupeh Electric Power Plant has installed three 5,000-kilowatt generators. It is estimated that production will begin by this fall.

Factors contributing to curtailment of production are: diminishing value of the currency, high production costs (three times greater than prewar costs), inconvenience of transportation, falling market, and heavy taxes.

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